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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Report from Belize—Fruit port.

BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS, *August 4, 1901.*

SIR: I have to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ended August 3, 1901:

Population, according to census of 1901, 9,114; present officially estimated population, 9,114. Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, 2. Prevailing diseases, malarial in character. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels: August 2, steamship *S. Oteri*; crew, 35; passengers from this port, 2; passengers in transit, 26; pieces of baggage disinfected, 3; steamship *Manchuria*; crew, 37; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none; steamship *Managua*; crew, 17; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none. August 3, steamship *Bergenser*; crew, 17; number of passengers from this port, none; number of passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none.

Respectfully,

J. GREY THOMAS,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Reports from Hongkong—Plague situation improving.

HONGKONG, CHINA, *July 8, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of inspection service at this station for the week ended July 6, 1901. Six steamers were inspected during the week, 480 individuals were bathed, 617 bundles of clothing and bedding and 2,666 pounds of human hair were disinfected by steam. There were 4 rejections during the week because of fever. Forty-seven cases of plague and 46 deaths were reported during the week, bringing the total for the year thus far up to 1,532 cases and 1,461 deaths. One case of enteric fever with 1 death was also reported during the week.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

HONGKONG, CHINA, July, 16, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of inspection work for the week ended July 13, 1901. Sixteen vessels were inspected during the week, and the usual disinfection was carried on. There were 18 persons rejected because of fever. The plague situation shows great improvement, 26 cases and 21 deaths have been reported during the week. Of this number 2 were Europeans who are now under treatment in the hospital. The total cases thus far this year are, therefore, 1,558 and 1,482 deaths. Two cases of enteric fever were also reported during the week. I also transmit, under same cover, an abstract of mortality statistics in the colony during the month of May. As will be seen the total deaths reported were 1,010. Of this number 557 were due to plague. The death rate among the British and foreign population was 54 per 1,000 per annum, being double the rate for the month of April, 1901. This may be accounted for in part from the fact that out of a total of 47 deaths, 19 were due to plague. No definite information was obtainable from Canton during the week.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Abstract of mortality statistics at Hongkong month of May, 1901.

	Population.				Population.		
	British and foreign.	Chinese land.	Chinese harbor.		British and foreign.	Chinese land.	Chinese harbor.
Specific diseases—				Circulatory system—			
Smallpox.....	0	4	0	Heart disease.....	0	9	2
Fever, enteric.....	3	3	1	Respiratory system—			
Diarrhea.....	1	25	4	Bronchitis.....	2	19	6
Dysentery.....	1	2	0	Pneumonia.....	3	6	1
Bubonic plague.....	19	526	12	Phthisis.....	3	55	10
Malarial fever.....	3	43	6	Pleurisy.....	0	0	1
Beriberi.....	2	17	7	Empyema.....	0	1	0
Septic—				Asthma.....	0	1	0
Septicæmia.....	0	1	0	Digestive system—			
Puerperal fever.....	0	2	0	Hernia, strangulated.....	0	1	0
Venereal, syphilis.....	0	12	0	Pancreatitis.....	1	0	0
Effects of injuries.....	2	8	1	Icterus and gall stone.....	0	2	0
Developmental—				Urinary system—			
Immaturity at birth..	0	4	0	Bright's disease....	0	4	1
Debility.....	0	9	1	Generative system—			
Old age.....	1	15	6	Prometria.....	0	1	0
Marasmus.....	0	11	0	Abortion.....	1	0	0
Tabes mesenterica....	0	1	0	Post-partum hemorrhage.....	0	1	0
Miscellaneous—				Placenta Previa....	0	1	0
Cancer of stomach....	1	0	0	Childbirth.....	0	1	0
Cancer of uterus.....	0	1	0	The skin—			
General tuberculosis	1	14	0	Ulcer of foot.....	0	1	0
Nervous system—				Hip joint disease....	0	1	0
Meningitis.....	0	1	1	Undefined—			
Meningitis, tuberculous.....	2	1	0	Dropsy.....	0	1	0
Abscess of brain.....	0	1	0	Tumor of rectum....	0	1	0
Apoplexy.....	0	2	0	Undiagnosed.....	0	10	11
Paralysis.....	1	1	0				
Infantile convulsions.....	0	32	0				
Tetanus.....	0	3	0				
Trismus.....	0	48	0				
Epilepsy.....	0	1	0				
Spinal sclerosis.....	0	1	0				
				Total.....	47	884	79

British and foreign population, 9,324; death rate, 54.0 per 1,000. Chinese land population, 235,240; death rate, 44.9 per 1,000. Chinese harbor population, 33,790; death rate, 25.7 per 1,000. The whole colony, 283,354; death rate, 42.7 per 1,000, exclusive of army and navy.

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August 23, 1901

[No. 113.]

Plague in the province of Kwangtung, including Canton.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Canton, China, June 25, 1901.

SIR: On June 11, 1901, I received the following letter of instructions:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Washington, D. C., May 1, 1901.*

SIR: I have to apprise you of the receipt of a letter, dated the 29th ultimo, from the Secretary of the Treasury, in which he requests that you be instructed to forward periodically, for the information of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, all the information in your possession regarding the prevalence of bubonic plague in Canton and surrounding districts.

You will please forward this information as requested.

Respectfully,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

HON. ROBERT M. MCWADE,
Consul of the United States, Canton, China.

On June 11, 1901, I addressed a circular note, of which the following is a true copy, to each of the American medical and other missionaries in the province of Kwangtung:

CANTON, CHINA, *June 11, 1901.*

SIR: Please forward to me, periodically, for the information of the United States Department of State and the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, all the reliable information that you can gather regarding the prevalence of the bubonic plague in your district and its vicinity.

Please include all existing plague conditions and let your reports thereon be thorough and exhaustive.

Respectfully,

ROBERT M. MCWADE,
United States Consul.

Dr. JOHN M. SWAN.

It is to be remembered that Kwangtung is 79,456 square miles in extent, that it has no railroads, and that its means of communication either overland or by the many waterways through its interior are precarious on account of the long distances between villages, or the slowness of the chair bearers on land and the junks and lorchas on the rivers and creeks, the latter of which are infested with bands of robbers or pirates, who seem to be as ubiquitous as they are audacious in their operations. Those conditions are the chief causes of the continual delay in the transmission of all correspondence of an official business or of a private or social nature, and are self explanatory of the apparent tardiness of the replies to my circular note.

The first replies which I quote herewith relate to Canton and its vicinity. Canton is the chief treaty port of southern China. It is situated on the banks of the Pearl or Canton River and its silk, matting, blackwood, tea, and other industries afford profitable employment to its over two millions of population, as well as to another half million Cantonese who live entirely on the sampans, launches, junks, flower boats, and other craft which swarm on the river and its adjacent creeks.

The following are the answering reports:

CANTON, CHINA, *June 20, 1901.*

SIR: In response to your request for reliable information regarding the prevalence of bubonic plague in Canton, the conditions under which it exists or develops, and our method of treating the same at this hospital, I have the honor to report as follows:

Prevalence.—During my frequent visits in and about the city of Canton I heard of a few sporadic cases as early as February of this present year, but saw none until in March, when cases of plague began to appear off the Hongkong steamers. Reliable reports reached us during March that this dread disease prevailed to a considerable extent in Chan Tsun, a large village about 15 miles southwest of Canton. During April